

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 05334 221731Z

21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 018149

R 221652Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8828

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 5334

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH ESCOVAR-SALOM

REF: STATE 117583

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND I HAD A RATHER LENGTHY CHAT AT THE AIRPORT THE EVENING OF MAY 20 UPON HIS ARRIVAL BACK FROM THE U.S. WE WENT OVER MUCH OF THE SAME GROUND COVERED IN THE TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE. ESCOVAR WAS OBVIOUSLY DELIGHTED WITH THE VISIT AND RATHER PROUD OF HIMSELF FOR HAVING CARRIED IT OFF SO WELL. HIS TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY LEFT PARTICULARLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS. MY COLLEAGUES AND I ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS IN MAKING THIS TRIP SUCH A RESOUNDING SUCCESS.

2. ESCOVAR SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME SOON AFTER DISCUSSING WITH THE PRESIDENT THE QUESTION OF THE PREPCON AS WELL AS OUR POSSIBLE INITIATIVES TOWARD STRENGTHENED BILATERAL COOPERATION. WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER, WE AGREED THAT A JOINT WORKING-GROUP APPROACH SHOULD UNCOVER PRACTICAL MEANS FOR COOPERATION IN VARIOUS AREAS. ESCOVAR MENTIONED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, NUTRITION AND FERTILIZER PRODUCTION AS AREAS WE MIGHT LOOK AT. HE SAID HE PLANNED TO RAISE WITH EX-PRESIDENT CALDERA THE IDEA OF INCLUDING FORMER AMBASSADOR AGUILAR IN THIS EXERCISE.

3. COMMENT: I AM RATHER DUBIOUS ABOUT ESCOVAR'S INSISTENCE ON BRINGING COPEI INTO HIS WORKING GROUP -- EVEN IN THE AMIABLE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 05334 221731Z

PERSON OF AGUILAR. THE PROSPECTS FOR QUIET, PRACTICAL WORK WOULD

NOT SEEM OVERLY BRIGHT IF OUR DELIBERATIONS WERE TO BE SUBJECT TO POLITICAL VETTING AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION BY THE OPPOSITION.

4. IN ANY CASE, WE WILL TRY TO STEER THESE FIRST TALKS TOWARD THE NEED FOR AN ON-GOING CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM AND FOR COLLABORATION IN AREAS THAT WILL PRODUCE REASONABLY PROMPT AND VISIBLE RESULTS. I THINK IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT WE AVOID AT THE OUTSET BEING DRAWN INTO INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSIONS OF SUCH DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX PROPOSALS AS JOINT FERTILIZER PRODUCTION. A MORE REALISTIC INITIAL FOCUS MIGHT, FOR EXAMPLE, BE ON WORKING OUT A STRUCTURAL RELATIONSHIP IN THE FIELD OF REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF AID/TA/STS SERVICES.

5. THE QUESTION RAISED IN THE REFTEL AS TO ESCOVAR'S REAL INFLUENCE AND POSITION IN THIS GOVERNMENT IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE. THE WORKING-GROUP EXERCISE AND OUR HOPE TO USE IT AS A BRIDGE TO MEANINGFUL CONSULTATIONS ON THE CRITICAL INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WILL NOT RESULT IN MUCH UNLESS ESCOVAR DOES CARRY WEIGHT. WE HAVE NO JUDGMENT ON THE POINT TO OFFER AT THIS MOMENT BEYOND NOTING A GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT PEREZ GUERRERO CONTINUES TO BE A CENTRAL FIGURE IN THE FORMULATION AND EXECUTION OF VENEZUELA'S FOREIGN POLICY. (I HAVE SOME DOUBT THAT THE QUESTION HERE IS ONLY ONE OF PEREZ GUERRERO'S "RHETORIC." HE STRIKES ME AS AMONG THE TRUE BELIEVERS.)

6. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, WE ARE ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT ESCOVAR'S RELATIONS WITH THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ARE, TO SAY THE LEAST, STRAINED. JOHN RAPHAEL, FOR ONE, IS ALMOST CERTAINLY ON HIS WAY OUT.

7. ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE OR THOUGHTS THE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON THE WORKING-GROUPS WILL BE APPRECIATED.
SHLAUDEMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA05334
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750181-0133
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750524/aaaaavmj.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 117583
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH ESCOVAR-SALOM
TAGS: PFOR, VE, (ESCOVAR SALOM, RAMON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006